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## House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, December 7, 2009, at 10.30 a.m.

## Senate

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2009

The Senate met at 9:31 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARK R. WARNER, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Our Father, we bow in Your sacred presence to acknowledge our need of You. We can do without many things, but without You we can't live.

Meet the needs of the Members of this legislative body. When sorrow and shadows fall on their path, fill them with Your joy and light. When they feel perplexed, provide them with Your bountiful wisdom. When their health fails, be for them the great physician. Lord, we also ask You to protect their loved ones with the shield of Your favor. Give our lawmakers courage for hard times and strength for difficult places. We pray in Your loving Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MARK R. WARNER led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, December 4, 2009.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MARK R. WARNER, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. WARNER thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks, the Senate will resume consideration of the health care bill. The time until 11:30 a.m. is equally divided and controlled between the leaders or their designees. The majority will control the first half and the Republicans the second half.

We have a number of votes we are going to try to arrange this afternoon. We will let all Senators know as soon as we have this worked out, but there will be some votes today and tomorrow.

### HEALTH CARE REFORM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the amendment process continues to crawl forward,

and this historic health reform bill continues to evolve and improve. This is a good bill. It saves lives, saves money, and saves Medicare. It makes health insurance more affordable, makes health insurance companies more accountable, and makes our economy stronger. The Democrats know we can make it even better. This is happening because of the dedicated hard work from throughout the Democratic caucus—from veteran Senators and newer Senators, by the hands of men and women from diverse parts of the country and good public servants from all points of the political spectrum.

Senator MIKULSKI of Maryland, who for decades has been a champion for women's health, made it better by making sure women can get the mammograms, the checkups and preventive care they need to stay healthy and get them at no cost.

Senator BENNET of Colorado, who has served skillfully in this body for less than a year, made it better by reaffirming our commitment to Medicare. He made it better by ensuring seniors get the care they need and the quality of life they deserve.

That positive trend will continue today. Senator WHITEHOUSE of Rhode Island, who came to Congress with a class of Senators elected with a strong mandate to change the way Washington works, has proposed an amendment based on common sense and accountability. It says the money dedicated to the health care of American seniors and of people with disabilities should be used only for those precise purposes.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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